

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SSC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 OES-03

CU-02 /068 W

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O R 121715Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5716

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NEW MORO GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 2224(NOTAL)

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SUMMARY. NEW MORO CABINET WAS SWORN IN AT NOON TODAY BY PRESIDENT LEONE. MAJOR CHANGES INVOLVE SUBSTITUTION OF REPUBLICAN FINANCE AND JUSTICE MINISTERS WITH RESPECTED "TECHNICIANS", AND REPLACEMENT OF INTERIOR MINISTER GUI (IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL). DEMANDS FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL RANKS TO BRING IN "NEW FACES" WENT UNHEEDED. NEW GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO PRESENT PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT LATE NEXT WEEK. DESPITE PROPENSITY OF LIBERALS TO ABSTAIN, THUS STRENGTHENING MORO'S POTENTIAL MAJORITY, NEW GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND ON BENEVOLENCE OF SOCIALISTS FOR ITS SURVIVAL. EXPLOSIVE ABORTION ISSUE MAY BE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRST MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY TEST. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTH MORO GOVERNMENT (ROME 2339) COMPRISING 20 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND TWO "TECHNICIANS" WAS SWORN INTO OFFICE BY PRESIDENT LEONE AT NOON TODAY (FEB. 12). COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO CHOOSE UNDERSECRETARIES. MORO

GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY PRESENT PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT LATE NEXT WEEK WITH FIRST CONFIDENCE VOTE (IN CHAMBER) POSSIBLE BY END OF WEEK FEB. 22.

2. AS EXPECTED, MORO CHOSE TO "FREEZE" EXISTING DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTERIAL POSITIONS RATHER THAN EXECUTING SUBSTANTIAL "RENEWAL" DEMANDED BY MANY RANK-AND-FILE DC PARLIAMENTARIANS. HE PICKED TWO PROMINENT "TECHNICIANS" TO FILL MAJOR SLOTS (FINANCE AND JUSTICE) LEFT VACANT BY REPUBLICAN PARTY INCUMBENTS. A RESPECTED FINANCIAL EXPERT, COMMERCIAL BANK PRESIDENT GAETANO STAMMATI, TAKES OVER THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO, WHILE FORMER CONSTITUTIONAL COURT PRESIDENT PAOLO BONIFACIO IS THE NEW JUSTICE MINISTER. FORMER HEALTH MINISTER GULLOTTI WAS MOVED INTO PUBLIC WORKS JOB FORMERLY HELD BY BUCALOSSI, WHILE MINISTER S/O PORTFOLIO FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MARIO PEDINI MOVED UP TO MINISTRY FOR CULTURAL ASSETS. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH JOB WILL BE ASSIGNED AT FIRST COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, AS WILL SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF TWO MINISTERS W/O PORTFOLIO: COSSIGA AND MORLINO. LA MALFA POSITION AS VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS LEFT UNFILLED.

3. MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT RANKS WAS CAUSED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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REFUSAL OF OUTGOING INTERIOR MINISTER LUIGI GUI TO ACCEPT RECONFIRMATION. GUI INFORMED MORO THAT HE WISHED TO STAY OUT OF GOVERNMENT FOR TIME BEING TO HAVE GREATER FREEDOM TO DEFEND HIS NAME IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL. DRAMA OF GUI'S DECISION HEIGHTENED BY SUBSEQUENT SNAFU IN WHICH MORO ANNOUNCED LATE LAST NIGHT (FEB. 11) THAT FORLANI WOULD TAKE INTERIOR (IN ADDITION TO DEFENSE) ON AN INTERIM BASIS. FORLANI THIS MORNING ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THAT HE HAD "ALREADY" TURNED DOWN MORO PRO-

POSAL AND FACT THAT HIS NAME HAD NEVERTHELESS BEEN ANNOUNCED WOULD NOT MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND. MORO FORCED AT LAST MINUTE BEFORE SWEARING-IN THIS MORNING TO TAKE OVER INTERIOR HIMSELF ON INTERIM BASIS. FORLANI ADDUCED "POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL REASONS" FOR HIS REFUSAL AND ONE DC SOURCE SPECULATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO BEAR BURDEN OF THE TWO TOP NATIONAL SECURITY POSITIONS AT THIS TIME(I.E. DURING CIA AND LOCKHEED SCANDALS).

4. PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PRESSURE FROM DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS FOR RENEWAL OF GOVERNMENT RANKS FELL ON MORO'S DEAF EARS. PARTY OLD TIMERS AND SOME INFORMED OBSERVERS APPARENTLY FELT THAT TIME WAS NOT RIGHT TO ROCK BOAT OF INTERNAL DC BALANCES AT TIME OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND JUST BEFORE DC CONGRESS. ONLY BONE THROWN TO REFORMERS WAS APPOINTMENT OF SENATOR LUCIANO DAL FALCO AS HEALTH MINISTER REPLACING GULLOTTI. DAL FALCO, WHILE PERSONALLY GRATIFIED TO GET POST, WAS REPORTED BY ASSOCIATE AS VERY UNHAPPY THAT REFORMERS LOST THIS ROUND.

5. RATIONALE OF SHIFTS IS (CONVINCINGLY) EXPLAINED BY EMBASSY DC SOURCES AS FOLLOWS: STAMMATI IS NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND RESPECTED FINANCIAL MANAGER WHO CAN STEP INTO VISENTINI'S LARGE SHOES; BONIFACIO IS A TOP LEGAL AUTHORITY WHOSE LACK OF DC PARLIAMENTARY CREDENTIALS WOULD EASE EVENTUAL DEAL WITH LAY PARTIES ON EXPLOSIVE ABORTION ISSUE; GULLOTTI IS BEING REWARDED FOR HIS LEFTWARD SHIFT IN SUPPORT OF DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI; PEDINI'S UPGRADED STATUS WILL PLEASE (UNDER REPRESENTED) PICCOLI CENTRISTS; AND DAL FALCO'S ELEVATION IS SOP TO REFORMERS AND STRENGTHENS BISAGLIA FORCES.

6. DECISION FEB. 11 BY LIBERAL PARTY TO "CONSIDER" ABSTENTION ON VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR NEW GOVERNMENT TENDS TO STRENGTHEN MORO'S HAND. HOWEVER, NEW GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN PARLIAMENTARY CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT IS EXCEEDINGLY WEAK AND SOCIALISTS CAN BRING IT DOWN AT ANY TIME. SOME REPORTS INDICATE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AFTER CONFIDENCE VOTE WILL BE DISCUSSION OF ABORTION LAW. ACCORD ON THIS ISSUE WOULD REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD SENSE ON PART OF BOTH DC AND SOCIALISTS. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD NO DOUBT GIVE THE COMMUNISTS YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEIR "REASONABLENESS" AND DECISIVE INPUT INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

7. BIO SKETCHES OF NEW MINISTERS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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